

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of virus control for a plurality of clients of an e-mail server, said e-mail server associated with a network, said method comprising:

centrally monitoring for a pre-defined activity at any of said plurality of clients;

on discovery of said pre-defined activity at a given one of said plurality of clients, blocking e-mail traffic from said given client,

said pre-defined activity comprising receiving an e-mail message from said given client having a pre-defined recipient address.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said pre-defined recipient address addresses a fictitious recipient.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

logging e-mail messages sent by said plurality of clients in a message log;

on discovery of said pre-defined recipient address in said e-mail message from said given client, searching said message log for other e-mail messages sent by said given client.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:

on finding one or more of said other e-mail messages, identifying recipient addresses in said one or more other e-mail messages and sending a virus alert e-mail message to each identified recipient address.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said blocking e-mail traffic from said given client comprises dropping e-mail from said given client.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said centrally monitoring comprises monitoring at an e-mail server.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising, on discovery of said pre-defined recipient address in said e-mail message from said given client, sending a virus alert message to said given client.

8. A method of virus control at a server side for a plurality of clients, said server side handling e-mail traffic to and from a network, comprising:

receiving an e-mail message at said server side from a given client of said plurality of clients;

checking a recipient address of said e-mail message for a pre-defined recipient address;

on discovery of said pre-defined recipient address, blocking e-mail traffic from said given client.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

logging e-mail messages sent by said plurality of clients in a message log;

on said discovery of said pre-defined recipient address in said e-mail message from said given client, searching said message log for other e-mail messages sent by said given client.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said searching comprises searching for messages sent by said given client within a pre-determined time of a time of sending of said e-mail message.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

on finding one or more of said other e-mail messages, identifying recipient addresses in said one or more other e-mail messages and sending a virus alert e-mail message to each identified recipient address.

12. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

on finding one or more of said other e-mail messages, identifying each recipient address and, where an identified recipient address is for one of said plurality of clients, blocking all e-mail traffic from said one of said plurality of clients.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said searching comprises searching for messages sent by said given client within a pre-determined time of a time of sending said e-mail message.

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14. The method of claim 11 wherein said searching comprises searching in reverse time order from a time of sending of said e-mail message for a pre-determined number of messages sent by said given client.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein said checking comprises checking said recipient address of said e-mail message against a list of recipient addresses.

16. The method of claim 8 wherein said blocking e-mail traffic from said given client comprises dropping e-mail traffic received from said given client.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein said logging e-mail messages comprises logging sending and receiving addresses from said e-mail messages along with times of sending.

18. The method of claim 8 further comprising:
on discovery of said pre-defined recipient address, sending an alarm notification.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein said list of recipient addresses comprises addresses beginning with at least a majority of letters of the alphabet.

20. A method for facilitating virus control, comprising:
salting stored data accessible by each of a plurality of clients of an e-mail server, which data normally contains e-mail addresses, with a plurality of fictitious e-mail addresses, each of said addresses having a valid format.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein said stored data comprises at least one of an address book of an e-mail application, a message store of an e-mail application, and a web page.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising choosing said fictitious e-mail addresses such that for each letter of a majority of letters of the alphabet there is a fictitious e-mail address beginning with said letter.

23. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

storing said plurality of fictitious e-mail addresses for each of said plurality of clients at said e-mail server.

24. The method of claim 20 further comprising:

on receiving, at said e-mail server, an e-mail message from a given client addressed to one of said plurality of fictitious addresses, blocking all e-mail traffic from said given client.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said e-mail server is a simple mail transfer protocol server.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein said blocking all e-mail traffic from said given client comprises at least one of blocking e-mail traffic having a source address pointing to said given client and blocking e-mail traffic having a network address most recently associated with said given client.

27. A processor adapted for virus control, comprising:

means for monitoring for e-mail from any of a plurality of clients addressed to any of a plurality of pre-defined addresses;

means for, on discovery of e-mail from a given client addressed to one of said pre-defined addresses, blocking e-mail traffic from said given client.

28. The processor of claim 27 further comprising a hit list for storing said plurality of pre-defined addresses.

29. A computer readable medium, which when loaded into a processor, adapts said processor to:

monitor for e-mail from any of a plurality of clients addressed to any of a plurality of pre-defined addresses;

on discovery of e-mail from a given client addressed to one of said pre-defined addresses, block e-mail traffic from said given client.